

MULCHING

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 484



MULCHING

Mulching is applying a protective cover of plant residue or other suitable material not produced on the site to the soil surface.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice is used to help control erosion, protect crops, conserve moisture, prevent compaction/crusting, reduce runoff, and help control weeds. The practice is utilized on sites subject to erosion and high runoff that need the additional protection from material brought in from off the site. The material may be

manufactured and commercially available or it may be hay or crop residue hauled to the site and applied.

This is a high input practice used primarily on construction sites. However, the practice is often used in production of specialty crops including grapes, fruit, and vegetables.

Additional information including standards and specifications are on file in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

The following pages contain the conservation effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

CONSERVATION PRACTICE PHYSICAL EFFECT WORKSHEET

NOTE: recorded in Microsoft word 6.0 - use tabs to change cells/fields

STATE	Iowa	FIELD OFFICE		DATE	12/5/96
PRACTICE: 484 Mulching			NOTES: Produced off site		
RESOURCE: SOIL RESOURCE CONCERN: EROSION			Help Message: Click on form field for choice lists. Tab key to move around. "N/A" is the default.		
RESOURCE INDICATORS			PHYSICAL EFFECTS		
SHEET AND RILL			significant reduction in sheet and rill erosion		
WIND			significant reduction in wind erosion		
EPHEMERAL GULLY			significant reduction in ephemeral gully erosion		
CLASSIC GULLY			N/A		
STREAMBANK			moderate reduction in streambank erosion		
IRRIGATION INDUCED			moderate reduction in irrigation induced erosion		
SOIL MASS MOVEMENT			insignificant		
ROADBANK/CONSTRUCTION			significant decrease in roadbank/const. erosion		
OTHER					
RESOURCE CONCERN: SOIL CONDITION					
SOIL TILTH			significant improvement in soil tilth		
SOIL COMPACTION			significant reduction in soil compaction		
SOIL CONTAMINATION					
• SALTS			slight reduction in soil salinity		
• ORGANICS			N/A		
• FERTILIZERS			N/A		
• PESTICIDES			N/A		
• OTHER					
DEPOSITION/DAMAGE					
• ONSITE			significant reduction/onsite deposition damage		
• OFFSITE			significant decrease/offsite deposition damage		
DEPOSITION/SAFETY					
• ONSITE			significantly improve onsite safety/deposition		
• OFFSITE			sign. improve offsite safety hazard/deposition		
OTHER					
RESOURCE: WATER RESOURCE CONCERN: WATER QUANTITY					
SEEPS			N/A		
RUNOFF/FLOODING			insignificant		
EXCESS SUBSURFACE WATER			slight increase in excess subsurface water		
INADEQUATE OUTLETS			insignificant		
WATER MGT. IRRIGATION					
• SURFACE			significant improvement in irrigation efficiency		
• SPRINKLER			significant improvement in irrigation efficiency		
WATER MGT. NON-IRRIGATED			significant improvement in moisture use		
RESTRICTED FLOW CAPACITY					
• ONSITE			insignificant		
• OFFSITE			insignificant		
RESTRICTED STORAGE			sign. reduction in sedimentation of H2O storage		
OTHER					

RESOURCE: WATER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: WATER QUALITY	
RESOURCE INDICATORS	PHYSICAL EFFECTS
GROUNDWATER CONTAMINANTS	
• PESTICIDES	N/A
• NUTRIENTS AND ORGANICS	N/A
• SALINITY	N/A
• HEAVY METALS	N/A
• PATHOGENS	N/A
• OTHER	
SURFACE WATER CONTAMINANTS	
• PESTICIDES	insignificant
• NUTRIENTS AND ORGANICS	insignificant
• SUSPENDED SEDIMENTS	insignificant
• LOW DISSOLVED OXYGEN	insignificant
• SALINITY	insignificant
• HEAVY METALS	insignificant
• WATER TEMPERATURE	N/A
• PATHOGENS	insignificant
AQUATIC HABITAT SUITABILITY	significant improvement in Aqua. Hab. Suit.
OTHER	
RESOURCE: AIR	
RESOURCE CONCERN: AIR QUALITY	
AIRBORNE SEDIMENT AND SMOKE PARTICLES	
• ONSITE SAFETY	sign. decrease in airborn sed.&smoke part./safety
• OFFSITE SAFETY	sign. decrease in airborn sed.&smoke part./safety
• ONSITE STRUCT. PROBLEMS	sign. decrease in struc. problems/dust and smoke
• OFFSITE STRUCT. PROBLEMS	sign. decrease in struc. problems/dust and smoke
• ONSITE HEALTH	sign. decrease in onsite health prob./dust&smoke
• OFFSITE HEALTH	sign. improvement in offlsite health
AIRBORNE SEDIMENT CAUSING CONVEYANCE PROBLEMS	sign. decrease in airborn sediment/convey. prob.
AIRBORNE CHEMICAL DRIFT	insignificant
AIRBORNE ODORS	insignificant
FUNGI, MOLDS, AND POLLEN	insignificant
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: AIR CONDITION	
AIR TEMPERATURE	insignificant
AIR MOVEMENT (windbreak effect)	insignificant
HUMIDITY	insignificant
OTHER	

[illegible]

RESOURCE: HUMAN	
RESOURCE CONCERN: SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS	
RESOURCE INDICATORS	PHYSICAL EFFECTS
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY	insignificant
PRIVATE/PUBLIC VALUES	insignificant
CLIENT CHARACTERISTICS	insignificant
RISK TOLERANCE	N/A
TENURE	N/A
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS	
ABSENCE/PRESENCE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES	insignificant
SIGNIFICANCE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES	insignificant
MITIGATION OF NEGATIVE CULTURAL RES. IMPACTS	insignificant
OTHER	